

# Many Diamond Stars Take Winter Here

**By MARV HALL**  
 What do ballplayers do during the winter?  
 I'm glad I asked that question. Seems like quite a few of them come to Torrance — and Lomita. Ballplayers wintering in Torrance and Lomita this season include Paul Pettit, stormy petrel of the Pittsburgh Pirates; Erv Falica, Brooklyn Dodger flinger, and his brother Bo, who played with the San Jose Red Sox last year; George Vico, San Francisco Seal first baseman; Billy Joe Waters, of the Oakland Oaks, and Nanny Fernandez, of Seattle's Rainiers. Vico works at Schultz and Peckham Ford Agency here.

The climate in Lomita seems to be conducive to building Big League pitching arms, and the town has Erv Falica and Pettit to prove it.

**Looking For Home Here**  
 Falica, who got out of the army last summer in time to rejoin the Dodgers for the World Series, is looking for a home in the Torrance area in which to while away the winter months. Out here for the Christmas holidays, Erv will return to his Brooklyn home after the Yuletide.

In comparing Brooklyn and Torrance, Erv says there is no comparison. The weather and the yard space here are just right, he says, for his two children — both girls. Brooklyn may have a tree, but yards? No.

The Dodger hurler is looking for a great year for his team and himself next season. With Don Newcombe the big chucker, returning from the service, Falica believes the Dodgers have a good chance to repeat for the pennant.

**Dressen Not Missed**  
 Charley Dressen, who got the oust from Brooklyn, will not be missed, Erv says. He was a good manager, but he wouldn't bother with players who were having trouble and who needed help. New Brooklyn pilot will be Walter Alston, up from Montreal for his first shot at major league managing.

Erv says he has gotten rid of a sore arm that had bothered him for three years and is in top shape. He had a 13 and 4 won-lost record in the army, and is presently playing Sunday ball with the San Pedro All-Stars to keep the flapper warm. He isn't pitching for San Pedro, however. Plays first base.

Erv likes to pitch a lot — every four days — and believes he will get a chance to do so under the new Brooklyn manager.

**Pettit Likes Work**  
 Another guy who likes to pitch a lot is big left-handed Paul Pettit, the Narbonne blazer. Paul got the chance to test the ball-bear of his arm against every variety and sundry climate the United States could produce last year. By the end of the season, the fork-armed lefty like the Ace of Spades in a riverboat poker game, he'd been shuffled around so much.

Starting at Pittsburgh, he pitched during June, then he was sent down to New Orleans, where he pitched during part of June and July with the Pelicans. After New Orleans, he went down to Charleston, where he pitched one month, and then he was shuffled back to Pittsburgh for the end of the season. For the Pirates, he started six games, relieved in seven, and had an

overall record of 0 and 1.  
**Resting Now**  
 Right now, Paul is resting in his Lomita home with his wife and two sons. In February, he will join the Pittsburgh Club in Florida for spring training. You'd like to watch the big southpaw in action, he's playing Sunday ball in Inglewood each week.

Paul is presently working in an electrical firm in Wilmington with Seattle star Nanny Fernandez, who also lives in Lomita during the off season.

Comparing the climates of Pittsburgh and Torrance, Paul says he much prefers the Los Angeles smog to the Pittsburgh soot, which covers everything in the city with a fine layer of dirt.

**More Big Leaguers**  
 Two more Major Leaguers, now in the Navy, who live in Lomita are Les Phillips and Chuck Schildmeyer, both pitchers. Phillips is a Pittsburgh player and Schildmeyer is in the Philadel-

**Boyd Crawford Repeats as All Northwest QB**

For the second consecutive year the College of Idaho Coyotes have led the Pacific Northwest Conference football race and for the second straight time, Coyote quarterback Boyd Crawford from Torrance has been the choice of conference coaches to that position on the all conference selections.

This year Crawford bettered his superlative 1952 performance by playing eight straight 60-minute games to lead the undefeated Coyotes to complete dominance over the Northwest conference. Not only has he been named as one of the fine play callers in conference history, but for two straight years he has led the conference in all over passing statistics.

In eight games played this year the Coyote field general has completed 72 out of 120 passes attempted for a total yard gain of 1462, over 1/2 of the total Coyote offense, which was tops in the country. This figure was good enough to place him second in the nation in passing one week before the Coyote season ended. Crawford has been far out in front of the nation's passers in throwing touchdown passes having tossed 21 for six points each.

Despite having been credited with a rushing loss of 112 yards, because of being caught behind the line of scrimmage while attempting to pass, Crawford's total net gain both rushing and passing was 1350 yards for the season. This was good enough to make him third best small college ground gainer in the nation, just ahead of his teammate, Ted "Busher" Martin, who placed fourth in total offense just on the basis of his rushing gains alone.

Crawford's personal scoring column lists two touchdowns and one extra point, although he seldom runs with the ball, preferring to hand it off to one of his teammates. Quiet, modest and unassuming, Boyd is well liked by his fellow players.

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phia Philly chain, Pettit says. Getting back to the Palica boys, of which there are three we come to Ambrose "Bob" Palica, the older brother. "Bo" is

working for United Parcel during the winter, and lives at 23222 Falena Ave. in Torrance, with his wife and child. Free Agent "Bo" is a Tree agent, which

means that he signs up with whatever team he feels like each season. Another brother, Alex, is presently with the Army in Korea. George Vico, the Seal first-

sacker, says that he is "just taking it easy during the winter to get the cylinders ready for next year." He lives in Hollywood Riviera with his family during the winter.

On the subject of major league ball enthusiasts, and Vico hopes for a good attendance year. A top ball club, Vico says, could build enough interest in San Francisco to make Big League ball a possibility there. Vico will turn out for spring training with the Seals on March

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